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Kenyon College

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STR 161

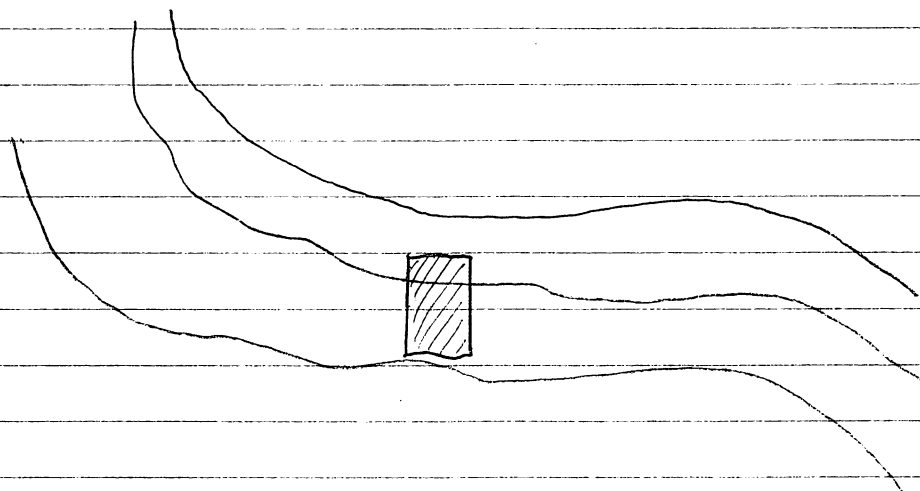
March 7, 2000

Op 31 A/001

Level 1 - Lot 1 Lithic scatter

2m x 4m unit - North side of quebrada

- either wash from structures above or production deposition
- all material is screened through 1mm mesh
- so far only chert & obsidian - no ceramics yet



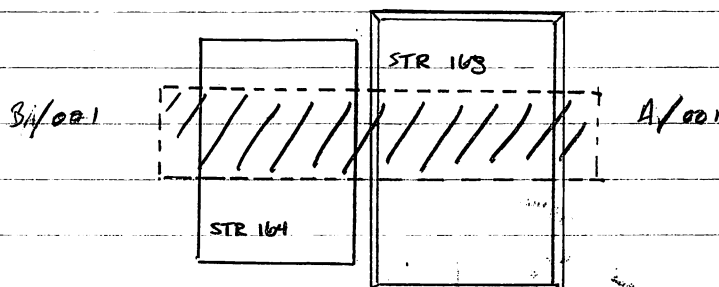
MARCH 8, 2000

Op 29 A/001 (Structure 163)

- Axial trench - top soil & humus

Op 29 B/001 (Structure 164)

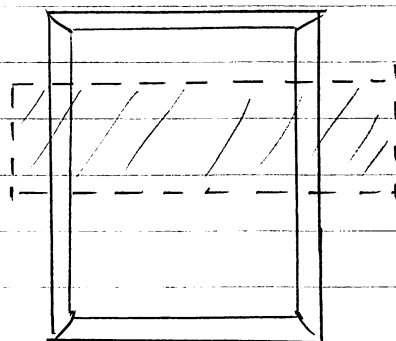
- Axial trench - top soil & humus



March 9, 2000

Op 29 C/001 (Structure)

- axial trench - top soil + humus
- structure has a well defined north + east line of stone



C/001 Level 1 - Lot 1

Excavation continues in Op 31/A 001, 29 A/001, 29 B/001

- top soil + humus removed

29 A/001 - have exposed stone fall in Eastern 2x2

- will move into adjoining unit and expose fall if it continues

- have found ceramics + lithics thus far

29 B/001 - western most 2x2 has yet to expose any architecture but continues to yield ceramics, chert, obsidian (green + grey), + bayonégne

31 A/001 - work continues slowly due to screening

- now have 2 screens set up and 4 men looking for debris

- both 2x2 are less than 5m from surface

Op 29 B/001 Level 1 - lot 1

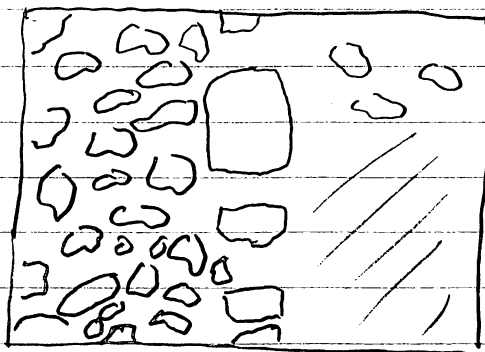
- continuing into 2nd 2x2 east
- have encountered stone scatter in a vague line. may be the back/front wall of Str. 163 or fall from this wall. in having the workman expose the stones to determine the extent of the wall

Op 29 A/001 Level 1 - lot 1

- at the west edge of the 2nd 2x2 west a line of stones has been exposed. Am continuing to remove dirt and uncover stones in both eastern units.

Op 29 C/001 Level 1 - lot 1

- Surprise! the visible line of stones from the surface continues at least 15 cm below the surface. The western side of line is a rough floor or fill while the eastern side is largely void of stones. Will continue below 10-15cm on east side and clean the floor/fill area to the west

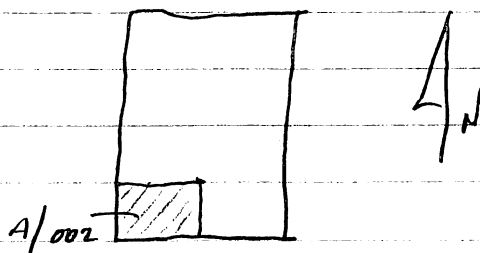


31 A/001

- have removed the top 5cm of Northern 2x2 and surface material from Southern unit. We continue to find a lot of chert & obsidian but are now also finding a few small ceramic sherds.
- will now confine excavation to the Southwestern 1x1 of trench. This will continue until a strike.
- All material from 1x1 unit will be separated for logistical purposes. There is no change in stratigraphy and all material should be considered as one lot.

31 A/002

Level 1 - Lot 2 1x1 probe into lithic scatter.



General impression of this area:

31 A/... - is a lithic scatter. I have no real reason to believe that this deposit is simply wash from the structures above. There are far too few ceramics and the lithic assemblage is markedly different w/in the scatter and structures above.

General Impressions cont:

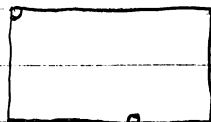
29 A - 29 C definitely structures and they are assoc. w/ each other temporally based on similarity in material. The high proportion of Pachuca blades suggests an Early Postclassic occupation.

Any relationship between these structures and the lithic scatter remain unclear. Is the lithic scatter a depositional zone for domestic lithic production at the Op 29 structures? Is the lithic scatter a result of work from earlier architecture? Do these two operations even date to the same period?

Op 29 B/001

- closed

- 15.50m



- 24.70m



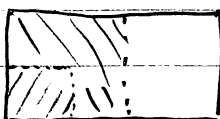
mativ-grey brown mostly small rocks - some med sized rocks.

- ceramic, lithic (chert & obsidian), bajonague
- no architecture

Op 29 B/002 Level 1 - Lot 2

- probe in South west corner of trench

B/002

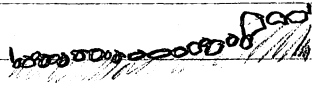
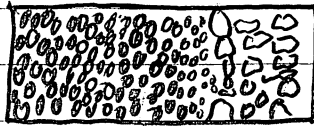


- Are we above architecture or in a midden? If it is a midden how deep is it?

* will extend to entire west 2x2

Op 29 A/001

- continuing west removing topsoil & humus.
- have exposed a cobble surface and possible step or platform.



- a fair amount of material but much less than recovered from B/001
- very little bajanque was recovered
- will complete this 2x2 then extend 1 unit (2x2) to the north from here. I would like to see if the line continues to the end of the structure or if it is an outlet step from the formal platform.

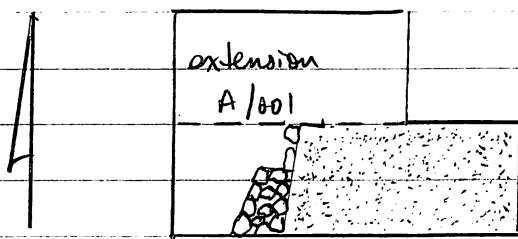
Op 31 A/002 Probe

- yielding much less material - matrix is grey-brown - few to no stones
- the same matrix for the entire trench.

03-10-00

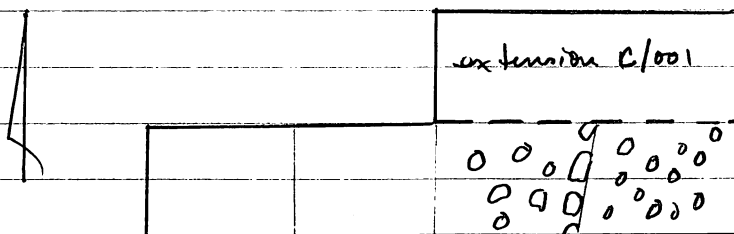
Op 29 A/001

- extension of trench to the north. Will combine all topsoil & humus material w/ other lots (A/001). Hoping to find the limits of north-south line of stones. A possible room is beginning to emerge in south west unit.



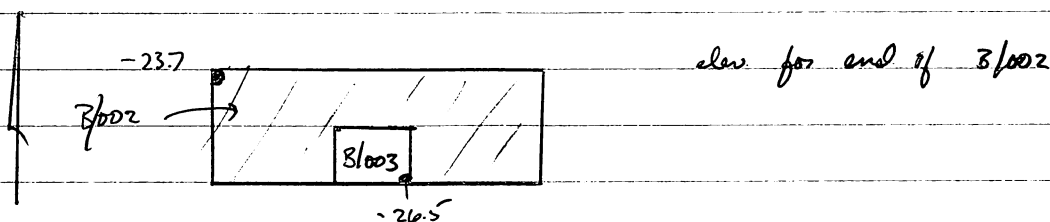
Op 29 C/001

- E-W Trench over structure will be extended to the North to determine limits of the structure. I now have 2 crews working on this operation.

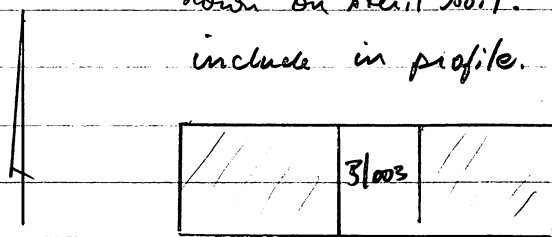


Op 29 B/002

- closed - have found a different colored area in 1x1 m area. will open new lot → B/003. if necessary may extend into other units.

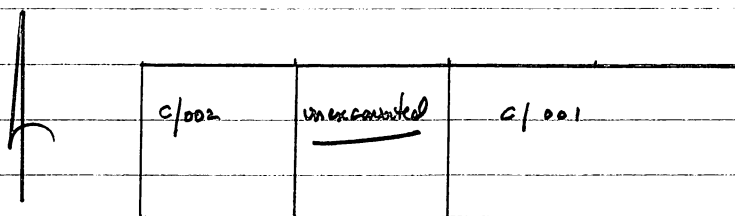


Op 29 B/003 - yellowish soil medium to small rocks - no artifacts. Coming down on steril soil. Will extend unit to the North to include in profile.



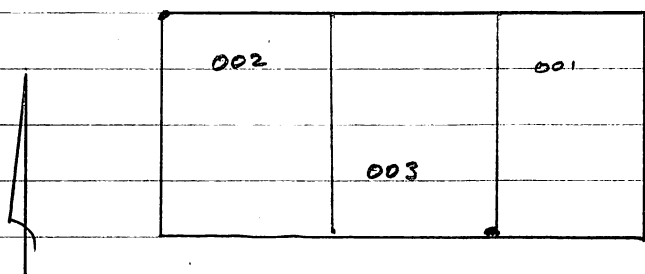
Op 29 C/002 - west end of axial trench

- I will separate this unit from the others in the field. If the pattern of midden in back holds there should be much more material from this pit than 29 C/001. If necessary this material may be combined w/ C/001 later.

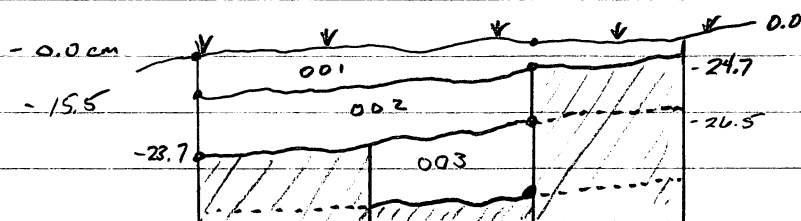


Op 29 B/003 - Strike layer

- yellow to grey soil, medium sized stones & no artifacts



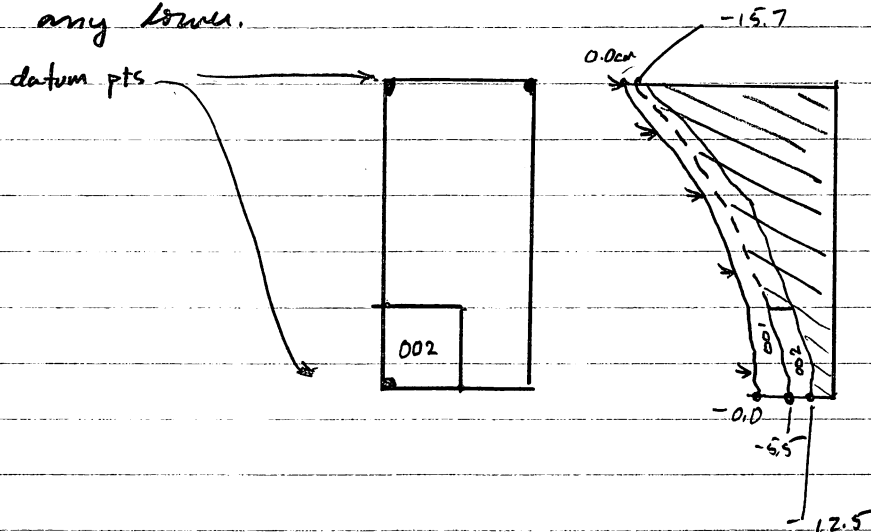
will not continue in this unit. Final rough sketch



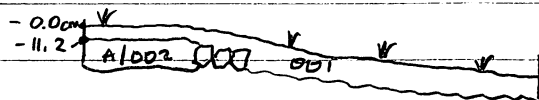
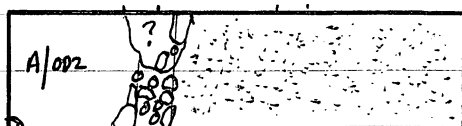
no architecture was found in this excavation. lots of green obsidian, ceramics and bajareque in 001, lots of all three in 002, and no artifacts in 003.

Op 31 A/002 - closed

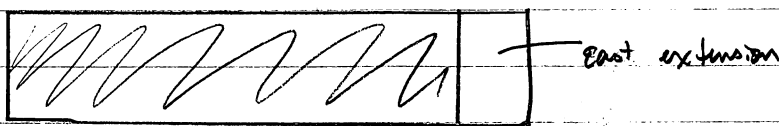
- sterile soil has been reached. We are recovering no more lithics or ceramics. The 1x1m unit will suffice. We don't need to bring the entire 2x2m unit any lower.



Op 29 A/001 - the extension will have to wait. The line of stones running north-south becomes unclear along the north line of the trench. I am now under the impression that we have a thick wall and further excavation to the west of this wall will be on the inside of this building. I have separated the material pulled from this section into A/002



- cont. extension to the East 1 x 2 m

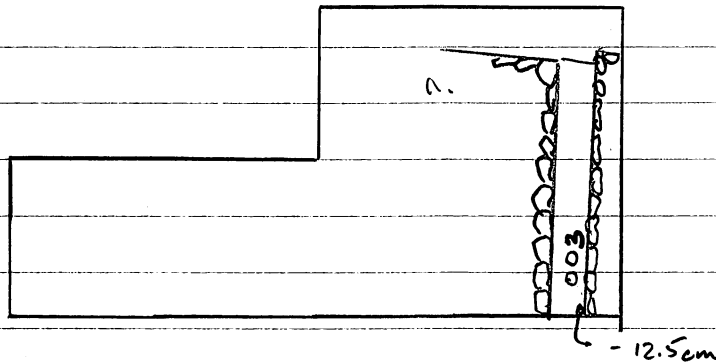


- to test the rough stone floor. Does it continue and how deep is it?

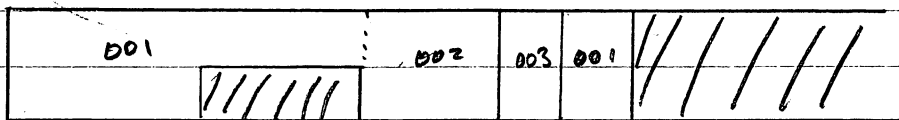
* NOTE: 2 refitted Pachuca blades were recovered above the room. It is unclear whether they are part of A/001 or A/002. Will be included in A/002.

Op 29 C/0023

- "fill" between two structures. NO more than 10-15cm deep.
- matrix small to medium sized rocks & grey soil. Encountered yellow grey soil & moved to the north.

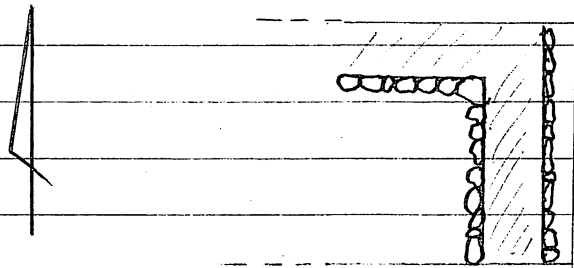


Op 29 B/001 - extension west to include large boulders behind the structure



03-11-00

Op 29 C/003 - continuing to remove fill between structures. We have 2 very clear lines. The western-most line corners and continues to the west while the eastern line appears to continue to the north. Below C/003 it appears that we have the yellow sterile soil w/ medium sized boulders that was encountered in 29 B/003. Once all of C/003 is removed I may drop a small probe into this lower yellow layer to verify this assumption.

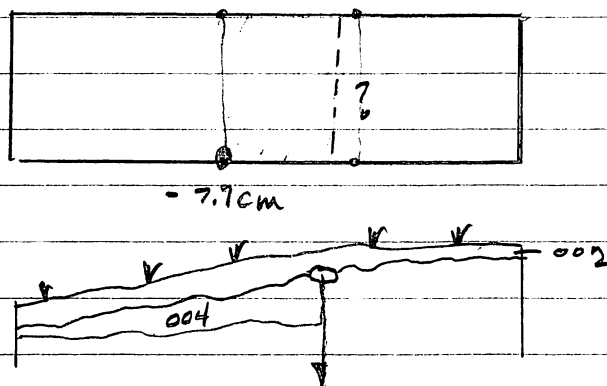


The orientation of the western structure is unclear. I originally thought the front faced east but encountering the second structure makes me question this. It is possible the western structure faces to the north.

~~Op 29 C/003 extension to the west~~

Op 29 C/004 - second level behind the structure.

The purpose of this unit is twofold. 1) to sample a possible midden 2) to probe for the back wall of this structure. Thus far, only the North & East walls can be positively identified. The west wall remains elusive. I am beginning to think this structure is taunting me.

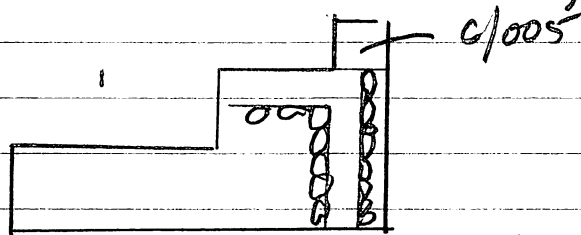


possible back wall (west wall)

- No possible back wall. Now I'm sure this building is taunting me. - This lot held lithics & ceramics - some ~~of~~ bayonague.

Op 29 C/005 - level 1 - lot 1

- 1x2m extension to the North along east side to follow easternmost line of stones. Should be combined w/ 29 C/001 (but may show a difference between western and eastern structure.)

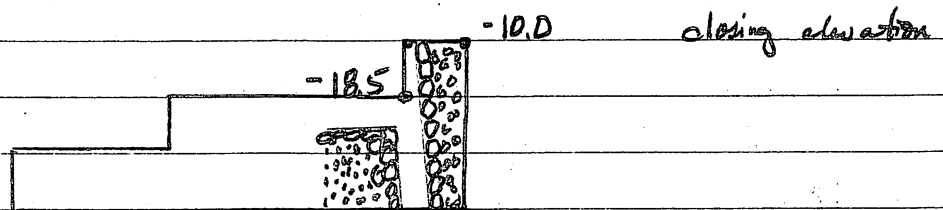


- Op 29 D/001 - trench connecting A and B
 1 x 5m trench. No structure was found in Op 29 B
 and the back wall was never located in Op 29 A. This
 axial trench may uncover some part of either structure.
 - D may be included in either operation later but
 for separating rows.
 - matrix is top soil & humus. Thus far have uncovered
 ceramics, lithics & some bajareque.

3-13-00

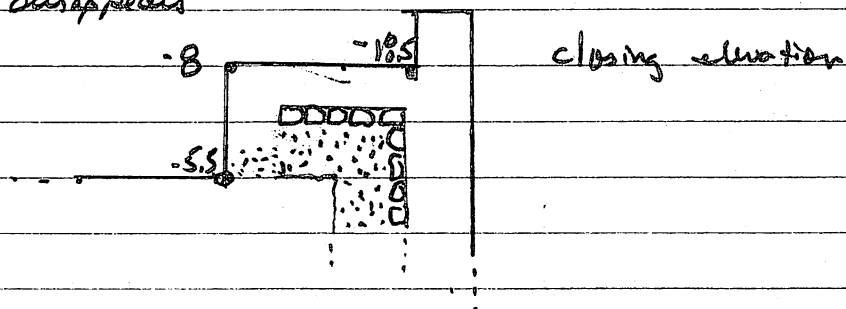
29 C/005 - closed

- The line of stones does continue to the north. Fair
 amount of lithics & ceramics recovered for such a
 small unit. Will not continue to follow this
 line to the north.



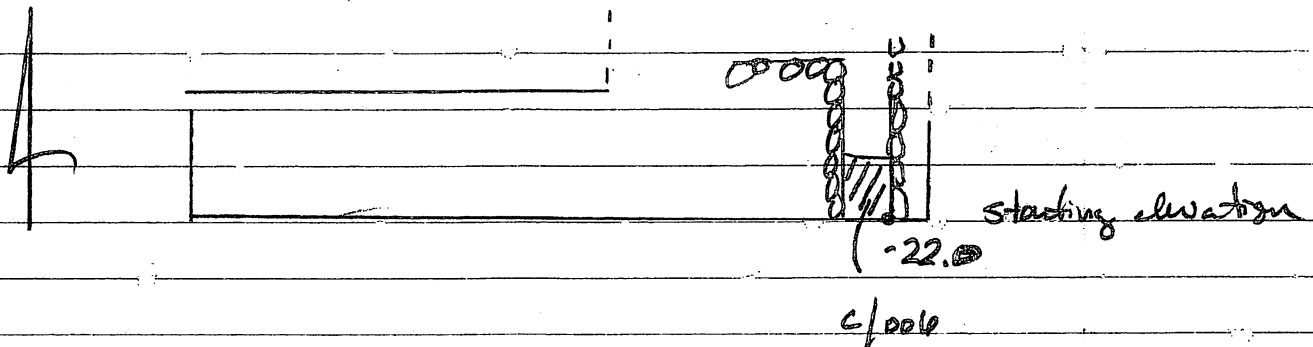
29 C/001 - extension to the north closed.

- structure corner (NE) is clear and runs ~ 2m west
 then disappears



29 C/006 1 x 1/2 m probe into surface between Southern structures

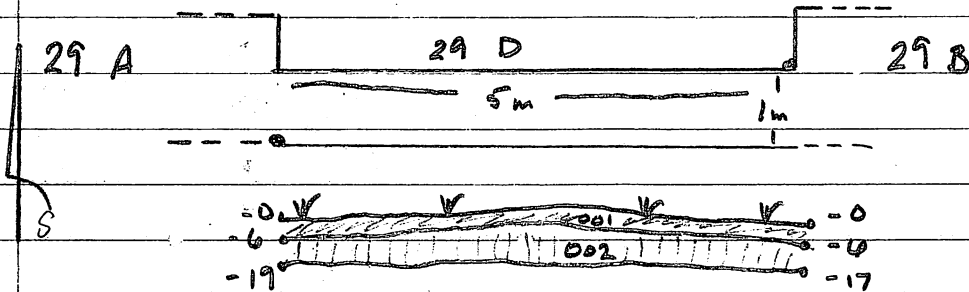
- This is a test of level below C/003. Matrix is medium yellow to grey w/ some medium sized rocks surrounded by smaller stones. 1st 10 cm have yielded some bajareque and a few ceramic shreds. No lithic recovered thus far. Aside from the abundant bajareque there is very little material culture. Will continue until strike or a change of stratigraphy



Only 3 ceramic shreds encountered - but we have quite a bit of bajareque. Final elevation from same point - 31.5

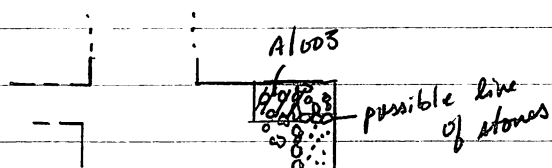
29 D/002 - lower level Axial trench between sub of A & B

Change of soil type ~5cm from surface - dark grey to brown soil - small rocks w/ lots of roots disturbing the stratigraphy



29 A/003 - Probe into East stone surface ~ 1x1m unit

This unit is directly below A/001. This unit will verify if a line of stones uncovered in the easternmost end of the trench.

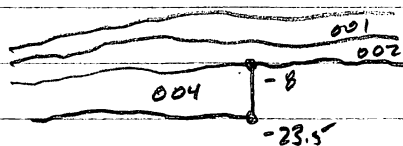
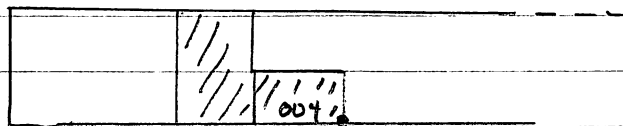


29 A/004 - probe into stone surface

- A/003 was not at all helpful in determining the stone line. The areas to the north of the line will be removed. This may be extended to the East another meter but that is unlikely.

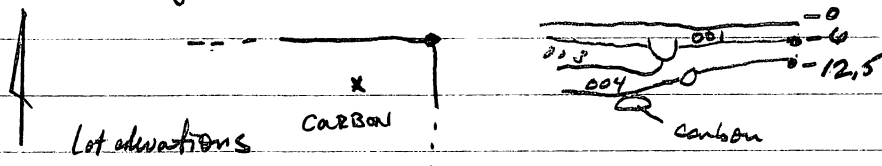
29 C/004 extension east to test for back line of structure.

1x1m unit. Have not found a line of stones, wall, surface etc. in the west end of any trench and this is no exception. I am beginning to think all features on the west side of this operation have been washed away but there is no indication that significant erosion occurred.



29 A/004 - closed

- came down on burned patch. End A/004 Above and will begin A/005 at same level as carbon. Line of stones remains ephemeral at best. The line was most likely a product of excavation and nothing more.



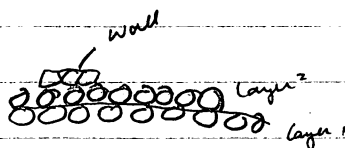
29 A/005 - probe into sub platform surface - carbon collected from this level

very narrow trench to collect a sample of material culture assoc. w/ carbon. This may be fill for an artificially raised platform.

03-15-00

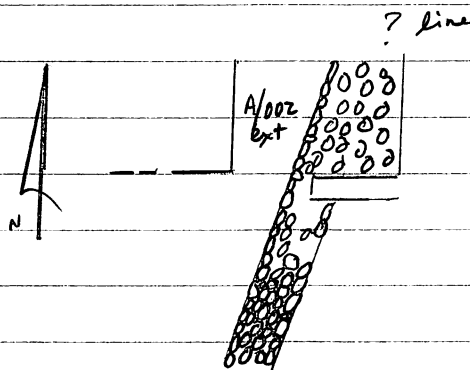
- 29 A/005 - immediately came upon yellow grey - clay-like soil w/ medium sized rocks - often sterile in other operations. It appears that the carbon was resting on this sterile surface. Very little material was drawn from this sub op. If the material is not equivocal to that collected in A/004 then it was only a thin lens of material across the surface in this area.

My general impression of St. 163 or sub op 29 is a double layer of stones - contemporary or NOT is unclear w/ a structure or room to the west



Op 29 A/002 ext.

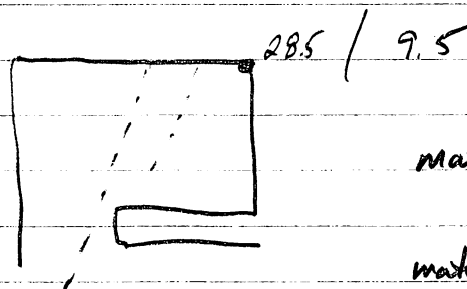
- have recovered a lot of material from this unit.
- a good deal of ceramics, lithics, obsidian but not much bajoneque. We also have recovered carbon from this level. I'm not sure if there is enough to run a test on but I have collected it. It may prove useful depending on the relationship of the two carbon samples.
- a line of stones continues to the north. It is unclear if a front wall exists or not.



will begin in the north east corner and remove rocks to determine if there is a line or not.

Op 29 A/006 - probe into N/E corner of Op 29 A ext. to the north. purpose is to determine if there is a front line of stones or not.

- NO FRONT LINE DETECTED FINAL ELEV / START



matrix - red stone
light grey soil
material - ceramic, lithic, granodiorite, bone.

3-22-00 - FINAL NOTES FROM OP 31 & OP 29

LOT LIST:

OP 31

Sub op A / 001 , 1002 : few ceramics, chert, obsidian

OP 29

Sub op A (STR 163)

- 001 ✓ ceramics, chert, obsidian, bajareque
- 002 ✓ cer., chert, obsidian ^{7 2 ref. it} pachuch blacks, bajareque, carbon
- 003 ✓ obsidian, chert, ceramics
- 004 ✓ cer. obsidian, chert
- 005 ✓ [combine w/ 004] + carbon
- 006 ✓ ceramic, chert, obsidian, groundstone, bone

Sub op B - vacant space - no architecture recovered

- 001 ceramics, chert, obsidian, bajareque
- 002 cer., chert, obsidian, bajareque
- 003 - sterile - no material

Sub op C (STR 161)

- 001 - ceramics, chert, obsidian, bajareque
- 002 - ceramics, chert, obsidian, bajareque
- 003 - ceramics, chert, obsidian
- 004 - ceramics, chert, obsidian
- 005 - ceramics, obsidian, chert
- 006 - ceramics, chert, obsidian

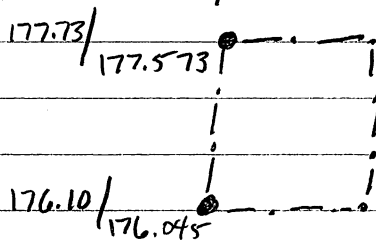
Sub op D - vacant terrain

- 001 - ceramics, chert, obsidian
- 002 ceramics, chert, obsidian

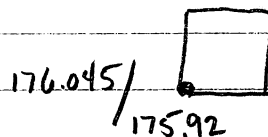
Op 31 Sub op A - Lithic Scatter.

- identified by Richard Woodbridge during topographic survey on 3-04-00. Excavation sought to collect a complete surface sample and significant sample to sterile soil. A 2×4 m unit was placed on the hillside (side of quebrada dropped at a rate of .4 m per every 1 m horizontal). All material was screened through a 1mm mesh.
- 2 lots were sufficient to reach the sterile soil as no architecture was found and erosion had washed away most of the soil.
- Impression of the material from the field: mostly chert and obsidian debris. Obsidian was expedient from nodules no greater than 6 cm in diameter. Tentatively would classify this as San Luis Source Obsidian "From bluish gray to opaque gray and relatively translucent black; dark gray or light gray banding is present". Texture is relatively smooth, not grained, and cortex is generally thin and smooth or a slightly frothy appearance" (Aoyama 1996:82)
- very few blades were present and those that were recovered were well worked. May be a very low percentage of Pachuca in total assemblage. As so few finished tools, and domestic debris was found I would designate this area as a production debris deposit. (Clark 1986, 1991)

- 001 START / FINISH ELEV



- 002 START / FINISH ELEV



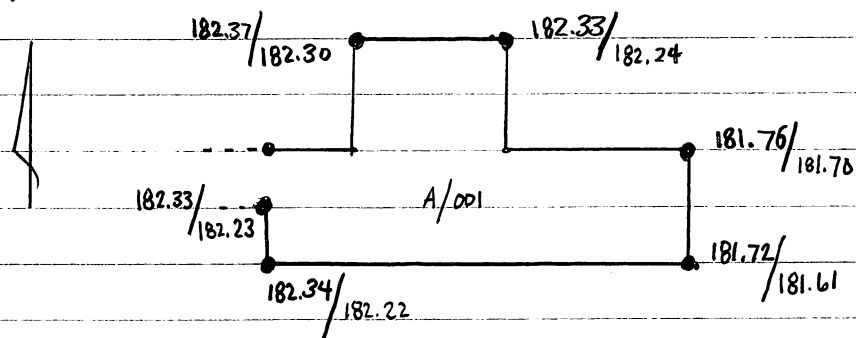
Op 29

Subop A STR 163

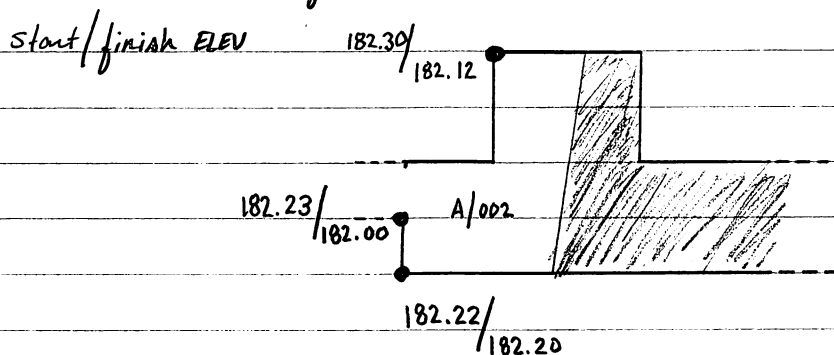
- Excavation was sought to find architecture assoc. w/ the lithic scatter (Op 31 Subop A). To the north ~~west~~ east of lithic scatter several structures were identified during the 1999 Season: STR 163, 164, & 161. Each of these were tested. An axial trench was placed along the E of STR 163 & 164. Subop A refers to STR 163 only. Other Subops were opened to separate the material from each area.
- Axial trench over STR 163 was expanded during excavation to clarify architectural walls. During the course of excavation I refer to a patio to the east and a structural wall to the west but could not locate the structure. Once the entire area was opened it became clear that the structure was the patio and the west line of stones was the westernmost feature assoc. w/ STR 163. Subsequent excavation revealed STR 163 sat on top of a rough stone surface. Whether this lower surface predates the structure by centuries or minutes is unclear. This lower floor rests on sterile material and a Carbon sample was taken directly above this level.
- Ceramics & lithic material show characteristics of the E. Postclassic. Further, 2 pressure blades were refit from this Subop. They show little wear and have ground platforms! This is a corollary of blade production but does not indicate blade production occurred in this area without a doubt.

The densest deposit of material came from the west side of the westernmost line of stones. This was most likely a midden deposit (A/002). The construction technique indicated a single occupation w/ little or ~~new~~ new additions. A single rough surface was covered by a second rough stone floor. The limits of this floor demarcated by a line of stones w/ facings away from the interior of the room. The western wall is notably thicker than the eastern wall.

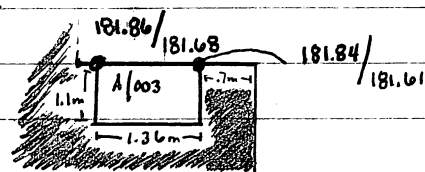
A/001 : matrix - topsoil, humus and material above rough floor
start / finish elevations



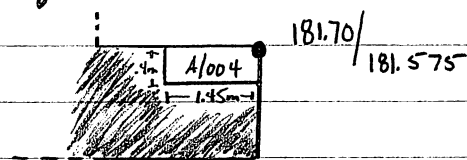
A/002 : matrix - dark gray - black soil - medium sized rocks
- west side of structure 163



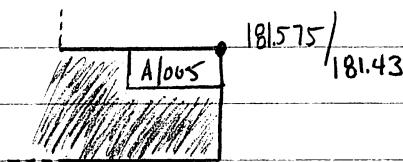
A/003 : matrix small to medium sized stones (tightly packed)
- poke into stone surface



A/004 matrix densely packed stones - slightly longer than A/003 stones
 - probe into lower stone surface

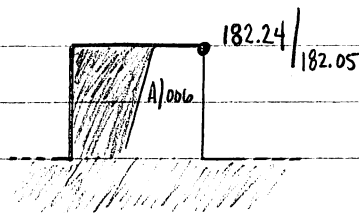


A/005 matrix- thin lens of grey black soil w/ little cultural material followed by yellow claylike soil w/ medium to large stones (sterile)
 * A/005 is the lowest part of A/004. It also contains a carbon sample that rested on the sterile surface.



A/006 matrix grey soil w/ densely packed medium sized rocks - fell from construction.

- probe into structure to reveal the wall.



Op 29 - Sub op B

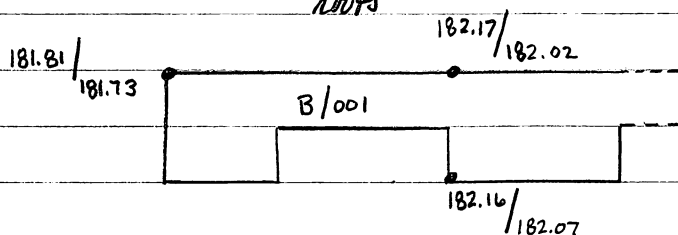
- This excavation was originally designed to penetrate STR 164 w/ an axial trench. No architecture was found during the course of excavation. A good deal of material was recovered from this Subop suggesting some activity took place here and there is a possibility any remnants of a thatched wattle & daub structure resting on natural ground could have been disturbed by

subsequent tree growth. All excavation in Sub op B produced similar material as A/001 - 006

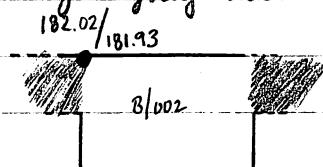
The westernmost limits of the axial trench include several large stones. One in particular could be a possible altar but lacks engraving. Further, the large stones are resting on soil. There are no visible structures - clearly - assoc w/ these stones. See site map and plan drawing.

Sub op B

B/001 - matrix top soil, humus, and dark gray soil - few stones - lots of roots



B/002 matrix - light gray soil w/ medium to small sized rocks



B/003 - yellow-gray claylike soil w/ medium to large sized rocks
- sterile

- see section for location. AD 00-31-02

Op 29 - Sub op C - Structure 161 - Axial trench

- Structure 161 exhibited a clear line of stones running to the north and west. An axial trench was placed roughly along the E of the structure. 2 large oaks growing from the southern portion of the structure distort this edge.

Final excavations have revealed a second structure - not visible on the surface to the east of Structure 161 (see plan AD 00-31-03). This second structure may be a lower platform or terrace assoc. w/ Structure 162 to the East. The proximity of these two structures suggests that the exact orientation was not identified through excavation. I originally believed St. 161 faced east - toward St. 162. The break between these structures does not make sense if this is the case. It is possible St. 161 is oriented toward the north and St. 162 faces west but no door was found.

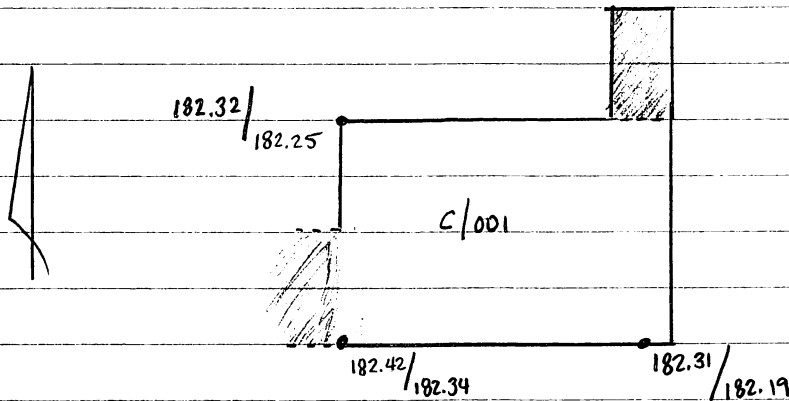
St. 161 was ephemeral at best. A strong N/S line to the east curved and went west for 1-2 m. It then disappeared. Further excavation to the west may pick up this line again but is faint. This line is a single course of stone sitting on a thin 5-15 cm layer of soil as a base. Larger stones mark the edge of the platform while smaller stones may have been used as extra support along interior walls or remain as a portion of a rough floor (like St. 163). *

The material recovered from Sub op C was similar but less abundant than the material from Sub op A and B. More area was opened w/ the other Sub ops which may account for the discrepancy between assemblages.

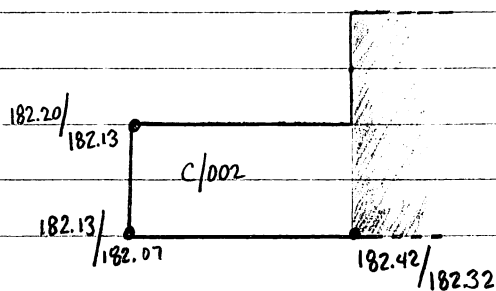
* Despite my best efforts no western wall (or limit to St. 161) could be located.

Op 29 Sub op C

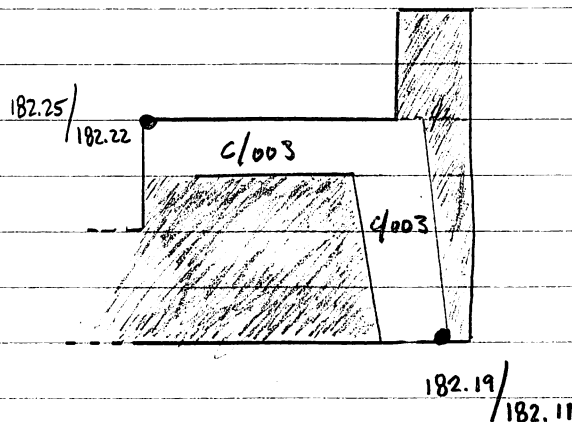
C/001 matrix - top soil, humus, and dark gray soil above structure.



C/002 matrix - top soil, humus, dark gray soil - few medium sized stones
- separate lot for midden sample

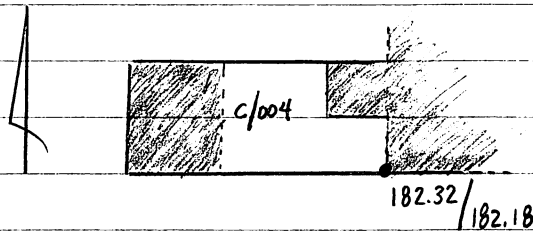


C/003 matrix med to small stones - tightly packed in light gray soil
- removed material between Str 161 & "Str 162 trace" (?)



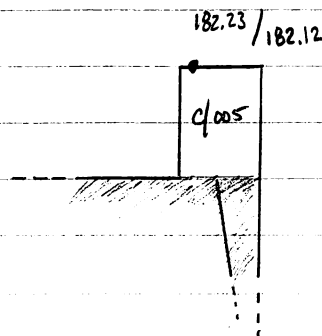
c/004 matrix - light brown - gray soil - very organic - small to medium sized stones throughout.

- test for west wall of Structure 161



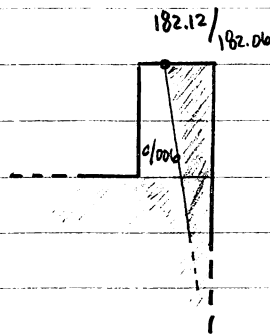
c/005 matrix top soil, humus and dark soil above structure

- extension to the north - following N/S line of "St 162 terrace" (?)



c/006 matrix - loosely packed medium sized stones

- to clean and define N/S line below c/005 - probably can combine w/ c/005

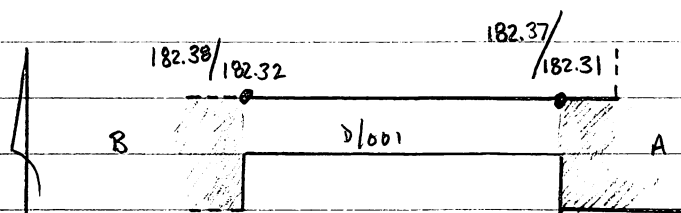


Op 29 Subop D - axial trench connecting Sub ops A & B

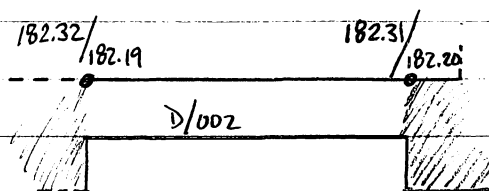
Subop D is over vacant terrain. No architecture was located and the material resembles that recovered from A & B. This trench was only 1m by 5m long. The purpose was two-fold. First to test for architecture and possibly locate Structure 164. Second to connect Sub ops A & B for a complete section drawing.

The matrix was consistent throughout but heavily disturbed by tree roots. Any possible structure in this area would have been distorted. An ephemeral structure may be easily lost.

D/001 matrix - top soil & humus.



D/002 matrix dark gray to brown soil w/ small stones dispersed
- further test for architecture.



PLAN POINTS - RAW DATA - ALL AZMUTH w/ TRUE NORTH

HI

$$\bar{A}20 \quad \text{ELEV } 183.0 + 1.43 = 184.43$$

$$\text{TN } \angle 144^{\circ}30' \quad d \ 64.2 \quad \text{R.D. } 2.33 \quad (\text{TN ELEV} = 182.10)$$

HI

$$\bar{A}\text{TN} \quad \text{ELEV } 182.10 + 1.52 = 183.62$$

Sub op C

PT #	\angle	dist	RH
1	220°	11.17 m	1.49 m
2	228°30'	9.83	1.42
3	201°30'	8.84	1.20
4	219°	5.48	1.30
5	202°	5.55	1.18
6	188°30'	5.06	1.23
7	179°30'	8.20	1.20
8	177°	8.03	1.39
9	190°	2.22	1.56

SUB OP A/R/D

PT #	\angle	dist	RH	PT #	\angle	dist	RH
1	261°	17.20	1.81	10	316°	7.44	1.25
2	261°	15.80	1.55	11	331°	7.09	1.29
3	259°30'	11.90	1.46	12	321°	4.98	1.35
4	275°30'	9.64	1.15	13	310°	3.29	1.29
5	299°30'	5.95	1.25	14	11°	3.60	1.73
6	292°	5.29	1.29	15	6°30'	5.62	1.77
7	284°	4.61	1.28	16	10°30'	6.0	1.86 1.86
8	297°30'	3.82	1.28	17	10°30'	6.0	2.34
9	316°	4.96	1.48	18	24°30'	4.44	1.9

HI

$$\pi \text{ TN ELEV } 182.10 + 1.52 = 183.62$$

$$\text{TN 2 } \times 266^\circ \text{ @ } 30.48 \text{ ROD } -3.35 \text{ (TN 2 ELEV } 180.27 \text{)}$$

HI

$$\pi \text{ TN 2 ELEV. } 180.27 + 1.27 = 181.54$$

Sub op A Op 31

PT #	\angle	dist	RH
1	201°30'	9.2	5.27
2	215°	9.32	5.44
3	228°	5.87	3.81
4	209°30'	5.24	3.60